

ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION



Rail Safety Program

Illinois Rail Facts

- Illinois has more than 7,200 miles of railroad track, the 2nd largest rail system of any state in the nation.
- About 500 million tons (1 trillion pounds) of freight move on Illinois' rail systems each year which is the most of any state in the nation.
- Chicago's rail hub is the largest in the U.S. and third largest intermodal container/trailer port in the world, following only Singapore and Hong Kong.
- There are over 39 railroad companies that operate their trains in and through Illinois which is the 3rd highest in the nation.
- Approximately 20 million tons of chemicals, many of which are hazardous, are transported on Illinois' rail systems each year.
- 11,223 public highway-rail crossings are located within Illinois.
 - 2,762 highway-rail grade crossings with flashing lights & gates
 - 2,205 highway-rail grade crossings with flashing lights
 - 2,986 highway-rail grade crossings with reflectorized crossbuck signs
 - 545 highway-rail grade crossings with no markings (flagging required)
 - 8,498 public grade crossings
 - 2,725 public grade separated (bridge) crossings
 - 11,223 total public highway-rail crossings – 2nd in the nation
- Illinois has more interconnected¹ rail crossing warning systems than any other state in the nation (¹ rail and traffic signal systems engineered to work together).

ICC Rail Safety Responsibilities

- Investigate highway-rail grade crossing collisions and other rail related accidents & incidents that occur in Illinois; coordinate efforts with the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).
- Management of Grade Crossing Protection Fund safety projects (\$27 million annually) and engineering oversight of all improvements & modifications to the State's 11,223 public highway-rail crossings.
- Engineering oversight of all highway traffic signal systems interconnected with railroad warning devices.
- Manage Illinois' Operation Lifesaver rail safety public education program that reaches communities and schools statewide.
- Conduct inspections of railroad track in Illinois to identify defects that can cause derailments. Task assignments are coordinated with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).
- Conduct inspections of railroad hazardous material shipments throughout the State, including radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel. Task assignments are coordinated with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).
- Maintain a comprehensive and current highway-rail crossing database and train/vehicle collision tracking system.
- Conduct scheduled and prompted on-site inspections of crossing warning systems throughout Illinois to evaluate maintenance and repair efforts and operating conditions.
- Investigate complaints (citizen, highway agency, public official, etc.) concerning highway-rail grade crossings and other rail safety issues.